



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 4730.7E
N77
16 July 2001

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 4730.7E

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MATERIAL INSPECTION OF SUBMARINES BY THE BOARD OF
INSPECTION AND SURVEY

Ref: (a) Title 10, U. S. Code, Article 7304
(b) CNO WASHINGTON DC 252203Z SEP 98 (NAVOP 009/98)
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.33B

1. Purpose. To issue the policy of the Chief of Naval Operations concerning material inspection of submarines by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) to be consistent with current submarine operating cycles.
2. Cancellation. OPNAV Instruction 4730.7D.
3. Background. Reference (a) prescribes that the Secretary of the Navy shall designate boards of naval officers to examine naval vessels and to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy as to which vessels, if any, should be stricken from the Naval register. Reference (a) further states "Each vessel shall be examined by a board at least once every three years, if practicable." Reference (b) increased the maximum periodicity between inspections by 24 months in an effort to "reduce the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle requirements."
4. Discussion. In the past, the concept of submarine employment and the operating tempo of submarines led the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to determine that it is not practicable to adhere to the intervals prescribed by reference (a). The operating tempo of these ships makes tight operational scheduling mandatory in order to meet the requirements of conducting strategic deterrent patrols and extended deployments. Additionally, engineered technical reviews have allowed for increases in submarine operating cycles further helping the Navy meet operational commitments and requiring a corresponding adjustment to material inspection periodicity. Accordingly, it is CNO policy to revise the times between material inspections to coincide with the recent changes to the Submarine Engineered Operating Cycles as outlined in change 4 to reference (c) while maintaining mid-cycle and post major availability inspections as defined below.

5. Policy. It is CNO policy that:

a. A post overhaul underway INSURV inspection will be conducted on each submarine to determine fitness for service. The inspection will be scheduled within three months following Post Shakedown Availability (PSA), Depot Modernization Period (DMP), Engineered Refueling Overhaul (ERO), Engineered Overhaul (EOH) or Extended Refit Period (ERP). The inspection should be scheduled as soon as practicable after the completion of these availabilities to ensure deficiencies are identified within the shipyard work guarantee period.

b. To reflect the current SSBN submarine engineered operating cycle of 252 months, mid cycle inspections shall be scheduled at 84 months and immediately following ERP or EOH (~168 months).

c. To reflect current SSN submarine engineered operating cycle of 120 months, a mid cycle material inspection will be conducted prior to the second Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA). This mid-cycle inspection will be conducted no later than the 84-month point following overhaul completion or the preceding Insurv inspection, which ever is later.

d. Material inspections of submarines by the Board of Inspection and Survey will not normally be conducted within 12 months of the beginning of a shipyard overhaul period.

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